

MERRILL, WI – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Merrill today to visit the Merrill School District's after-school program. Obey secured \$300,000 in federal funds last year for CESA 9 After-School Program Consortium to continue to expand after-school services in Merrill and to start new programs in Edgar and Prentice. He will also be meeting with the Superintendents of each of the three School Districts and CESA 9 to learn how they will be implementing the new dollars in their respective schools.

"Research shows that when students have a place to go after school where they can study and be supervised by an adult, not only are they less likely to get into trouble, they also get a better education," Obey said. "That is especially important to families trying to coordinate the demands of jobs and their children's schooling during hard economic times."

The federal funds are intended to help CESA 9 continue to provide a safe, healthy, enriching, supervised after-school environment for children in targeted schools. Since parental involvement is one of the keys to a student's academic success, the program is also designed to strengthen the community - family - school partnership.

"There is nothing more important for the future of our children than a good education," Obey noted. "Offering extra help with homework, advanced tutoring and an adult-supervised safe-haven free of trouble, after-school programs like this one help provide students a solid foundation that will help them for the rest of their lives."

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